

# Claims

- [c1] A locking device, comprising:
- an elongate, rigid hollow sleeve collectively formed by a first sleeve part and a second sleeve part that confront one another along a top parting line and a bottom parting line;
  - an elongate hinge means for hingedly interconnecting said first sleeve part and said second sleeve part to one another along said bottom parting line;
  - said first and second sleeve part abuttingly engaging one another along said first parting line;
  - a first locking means that secures together said first and second sleeve parts along said first parting line; and
  - a second locking means that prevents hinged motion between said first and second sleeve parts along said second parting line;
- whereby said second locking means prevents hinged motion between said first and second parts even if said first locking means is rendered non-functional.
- [c2] The locking device of claim 1, further comprising:
- said first sleeve part being channel-shaped in transverse cross-section;

said first sleeve part having a proximal end, a distal end, a top wall, a side wall, and a bottom wall;  
said bottom wall of said first sleeve part having a breadth less than the breadth of said top wall of said first sleeve part;  
said second sleeve part being channel-shaped in transverse cross-section;  
said second sleeve part having a proximal end, a distal end, a top wall, a side wall, and a bottom wall;  
said bottom wall of said second sleeve part having a breadth less than the breadth of said top wall of said second sleeve part;  
said respective top walls of said first and second sleeve parts abutting one another when said first sleeve part is disposed in confronting relation to said second sleeve part;  
an elongate space formed between said respective bottom walls of said first and second sleeve parts when said first sleeve part is disposed in confronting relation to said second sleeve part; and  
said elongate hinge post that forms a part of said elongate hinge means being disposed in said elongate space.

[c3] The locking device of claim 2, further comprising:  
said elongate hinge means being discontinuous mid-length of said hollow sleeve to accommodate said sec-

ond lock means;

said discontinuous elongate hinge means having a first part and a second part in axially aligned, longitudinally spaced apart relation with one another.

- [c4] The locking device of claim 3, further comprising:
- said first part of said elongate hinge means including a first plurality of equidistantly and longitudinally spaced apart cylindrical inboard parts that slidingly, rotatingly, and collectively receive said hinge post;
  - said first part of said elongate hinge means further including a first flat plate outboard part formed integrally with said cylindrical inboard parts;
  - said first flat plate being fixedly secured to said bottom wall of said first sleeve part in overlying relation thereto;
  - said first part of said elongate hinge means further including a second plurality of equidistantly and longitudinally spaced apart cylindrical inboard parts that are interleaved with and in axial alignment with the first plurality of cylindrical inboard parts and which also collectively receive said hinge post;
  - said first part of said elongate hinge means further including a second flat plate outboard part formed integrally with said second plurality of cylindrical inboard parts, said second flat plate being fixedly secured to said bottom wall of said second sleeve part in overlying rela-

tion thereto.

- [c5] The locking device of claim 4, further comprising:
- said second part of said elongate hinge means including a first plurality of equidistantly and longitudinally spaced apart cylindrical inboard parts that slidably, rotatingly, and collectively receive said hinge post;
  - said second part of said elongate hinge means further including a first flat plate outboard part formed integrally with said first plurality of cylindrical inboard parts; said first flat plate being fixedly secured to said bottom wall of said first sleeve part in overlying relation thereto;
  - said second part of said elongate hinge means further including a second plurality of equidistantly and longitudinally spaced apart cylindrical inboard parts that are interleaved with and in axial alignment with the first plurality of cylindrical inboard parts of said second part of said elongate hinge means and which also collectively receive said hinge post;
  - said second part of said elongate hinge means further including a second flat plate outboard part formed integrally with said second plurality of cylindrical inboard parts of said second part of said elongate hinge means, said second flat plate being fixedly secured to said bottom wall of said second sleeve part of said second part of said elongate hinge means in overlying relation

thereto.

[c6] The locking device of claim 1, further comprising:  
a first half flange formed at the proximal end of said first sleeve part;  
a second half flange formed at the proximal end of said second sleeve part;  
a full flange being formed by said first and second half flanges when said first and second sleeve parts are disposed in confronting relation to one another.

[c7] The locking device of claim 1, further comprising:  
a first reinforcing band fixedly secured to a distal end of said first sleeve part;  
a distal edge of said first reinforcing band being flush with said distal end of said first sleeve part;  
a second reinforcing band fixedly secured to a distal end of said second sleeve part;  
a distal edge of said second reinforcing band being flush with said distal end of said second sleeve part;  
said first and second reinforcing bands performing the function of dissipating stress loads concentrated at respective distal ends of said first and second sleeve parts.

[c8] The locking device of claim 1, further comprising:  
a first centrally apertured lock lug secured to said first sleeve part, mid-length thereof, in upstanding relation

relative to said top wall of said first sleeve part;  
said first lock lug being positioned on an inboard edge  
of said first sleeve part top wall;  
a second centrally apertured lock lug secured to said  
second sleeve part, mid-length thereof, in upstanding  
relation relative to said top wall of said second sleeve  
part;  
said second lock lug being positioned on an inboard  
edge of said second sleeve part top wall, in confronting  
relation to said first lock lug;  
said respective apertures formed in said first and second  
lock lugs being disposed in alignment with one another  
when said first and second lock lugs are disposed in  
confronting relation to one another.

- [c9] The locking device of claim 8, further comprising:  
a first semicircular wall of uniform height mounted to  
said first top wall, mid-length thereof and in upstanding  
relation thereto, in half-encircling relation to said first  
lock lug;  
a second semicircular wall of non-uniform height  
mounted to said second top wall, mid-length thereof  
and in upstanding relation thereto, in half-encircling re-  
lation to said second lock lug;  
a semicircular cut-away formed in a bight region of said  
second semicircular wall;

said semicircular cut-away providing a clearance space;  
said first lock lug and said second lock lug adapted to be  
secured to one another by a shackleless locking means  
having a hidden pin assembly.

[c10] The locking device of claim 1, further comprising:  
a first pair of resilient pads disposed in said first sleeve  
part at opposite ends thereof to cushion said piston rod,  
to protect said piston rod from damage, and to ensure  
that said locking device fits snugly around said piston  
rod; and  
a second pair of resilient pads disposed in said second  
sleeve part at opposite ends thereof to cushion said pis-  
ton rod, to protect said piston rod from damage, and to  
ensure that said locking device fits snugly around said  
piston rod.

[c11] The locking device of claim 1, further comprising:  
a first transversely disposed, centrally apertured lock lug  
is secured to said bottom wall of said first sleeve part,  
mid-length thereof;  
a second transversely disposed, centrally apertured lock  
lug secured to said bottom wall of said second sleeve  
part, mid-length thereof;  
a first transversely extending slot formed in said second  
sleeve part to accommodate said first bottom lock lug  
when said first and second sleeve parts are hingedly dis-

placed with respect to one another; and  
a second transversely extending slot formed in said first sleeve part to accommodate said second bottom lock lug when said first and second sleeve parts are hingedly displaced with respect to one another.